



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

ROLE & SCOPE STATEMENTS
Postsecondary Education
March, 1990

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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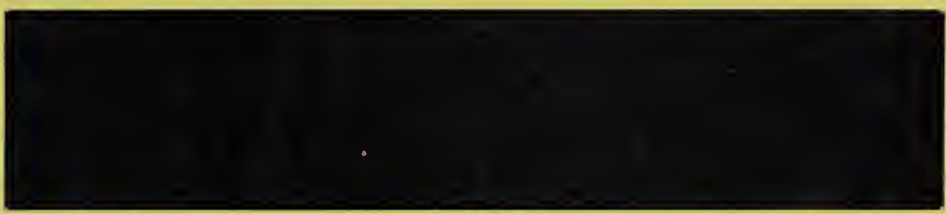
Units of the Montana University System

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Montana State University, Bozeman
Eastern Montana College, Billings


Northern Montana College, Havre
Western Montana College, Dillon
Montana College of Mineral Science & Technology, Butte

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PREFACE

The postsecondary education system in Montana is comprehensive and complex. Six senior colleges and universities and five vocational-technical centers collectively offer some 75 certificates, 45 associate degrees, 135 bachelors degrees, 96 masters degrees, and 23 doctorates. Inauguration of new disciplines, discontinuation of degree offerings, and mergers and disconnections of programs of study all add to the complexity of Montana's postsecondary enterprise. Accordingly, it is important that the role and scope of the System and each of its component units be clearly defined. Role and scope statements configure institutions and provide a framework for long-range planning.

Role and scope statements must not be viewed as static documents. Rather, like the institutions they describe, these statements are dynamic instruments that must be reviewed periodically and adjusted to conform to institutional change and developments in the structure and content of what we know.

These role and scope documents constitute the first significant revision in those statements adopted by the Board in 1979. The format has been altered significantly and several new components have included: (1) role and scope statements for the vocational-technical centers, (2) a postsecondary education mission statement, and (3) a role and scope statement for the Montana University System. Preliminary work on the statements began late in 1988 and gathered momentum during the latter months of 1989. Draft statements were developed by each center, college, and university. After several revisions, these documents, as a package, were approved by the Board of Regents on March 22, 1990.



Carrol Krause
Commissioner of Higher Education

BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

March 1990

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POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mission Statement

Under the Constitution of the State of Montana, the governance and control of the Montana University System are vested exclusively in the Board of Regents of Higher Education which has full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage, and control the Montana University System. In addition, the Board of Regents exercises programmatic oversight of Montana's three community colleges. The Board of Regents appoints, by constitutional mandate, a Commissioner of Higher Education as the chief administrative officer of the Montana University System.

In 1987, the Legislature vested the Board of Regents with general administrative oversight and supervision of post-secondary vocational-technical education. The Commissioner of Higher Education serves as chief administrative officer for postsecondary vocational-technical education in Montana.

As public servants of the State of Montana, the Regents and Commissioner are obligated to exercise several principal responsibilities on behalf of the citizens:

COORDINATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF DIVERSITY AND ACCESS

Fundamentally, all units of public post-secondary education exist to serve the educational, social, and campus environmental needs of a diverse student population not bounded by the traditional definition of college-age students. It is reasonable for these Montanans to expect a wide range of instructional programs in their institutions of higher learning. College-bound and vocational-technical students should find available in Montana academic and technical disciplines commensurate with those found in other states. Generally, undergraduates, and vocational-technical students should not have to leave Montana to pursue programs of study because they are unavailable in the State. In cases where a particular program of study is not offered in Montana, the Regents will make every effort to secure access to such a program in another state through interstate cooperative arrangements.

To be sure, not all programs can be made available on each college campus or vocational-technical center. However, the Board of Regents must be cognizant of educational needs in all areas of the State and endeavor to provide reasonable access to as many programs as possible for as many qualified citizens as possible. This effort should involve, when feasible, state-of-the-art technology for distance learning and the development of nontraditional modes for the delivery of courses and programs.

For reasons of economy and necessity, public expectations for diversity must necessarily narrow when considering graduate education. Master's programs should be initiated and continued only when needs, resources, and institutional mission so dictate. Doctoral programs should be very limited in number and scope. They should not be initiated or continued if resources are inadequate to permit regional and/or national reputations of high quality as determined by appropriate external reviews.

The Board of Regents has the responsibility for coordinating the delivery of public post-secondary education in Montana. Accordingly, the System must set the proper role and scope configuration of programs at each campus, determine state-wide educational needs, and provide leadership and support to the several campuses in meeting these needs. The Regents must be mindful of economic limitations and wary of unnecessary duplication.

ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

Through careful and regular review of programs in both vocational-technical and academic areas, the Board of Regents assures high educational standards in all public post-secondary institutions. Further, the Regents seek to provide institutional budgets that are consistent with the maintenance and enhancement of high quality instruction, research, and public service.

In cooperation with secondary schools in Montana, the Montana University System establishes appropriate statewide standards for admission to post-secondary education. Minimum admission standards improve the preparation of college-bound students and provide to students assurances of increased likelihood of success. In addition, through various scholarship programs, the Montana University System seeks to attract outstanding Montana high school students to one of the several campuses.

The Board of Regents, in concert with the several campuses and centers, has the responsibility of providing leadership in helping to attract and retain outstanding faculty, staff, and administrators. This is to be done through improved salaries, better working conditions, and professional development opportunities.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC

Montana citizens have over the years placed a high priority on public higher education and, therefore, have a right to proper accounting for the actions and expenditures of

the Montana University System and the post-secondary vocational-technical education centers in the State. Accordingly, the Board of Regents makes public explanations of activities, expenditures, and discharge of responsibilities.

The Regents exercise their responsibility to be accountable in several ways. First, they require that all institutions achieve and maintain accreditation by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. Second, the Montana University System encourages, and in some cases requires, specific program accreditation. Third, the Regents are responsible for monitoring learning accomplishments of students and professional accomplishments of faculty. Finally, the Board of Regents must provide appropriate reports of financial expenditures. The best system of education exists when the greatest possible results are achieved with the most efficient expenditure of the taxpayers' investment. The Regents have committed themselves to this ideal and seek always to provide explanations and assurances to the citizens that their funds are being prudently expended.

SEEK ADEQUATE AND STABLE FUNDING

Inasmuch as excellent higher education is essential for the cultural, economic, and social well being of Montana, it is imperative that funding for higher learning in Montana be adequate and stable. Consequently, it is an obligation of the Board of Regents to advise the legislative and executive branches on fiscal challenges and opportunities facing higher education. Undeniably, it is a primary responsibility of the Board of Regents to be staunch and committed advocates of adequate educational funding. To that end, the higher education community must stand ready to provide accurate, broadly-based data to be used in the construction of a tax structure for all state purposes. In addition, the Board of Regents has the responsibility of seeking creative funding alternatives to supplement state revenues. These would include but not be limited to institutional partnerships with private businesses and industry, aggressive fund raising efforts from both private and public agencies, and internal reallocations that eliminate unnecessary expenditures and assure funding for programs of high quality, priority, and demand.

ENHANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF MONTANA

Through its many programs in teaching, research, and public service, post-secondary education has the responsibility

of making Montana a better place to live. Continuation of the State's economic growth will be increasingly dependent upon its ability to meet the demands of existing commercial enterprises and new industries seeking to locate within its borders. Higher education opportunities for managers, scientists, and technicians must come largely from the colleges, universities, and vocational-technical centers. Moreover, the development of new products can be enhanced through expanded research capabilities within the Montana University System. Low-cost counsel to nascent businesses and assistance in the transfer of technology from laboratory to factory to marketplace are proper obligations of the campuses and vocational-technical centers.

Montana has been blessed with a splendid natural environment -- clean air and water, abundant wildlife, verdant and plentiful forests, spaciousness, and breathtaking beauty. The systems of higher learning in Montana, through educational, research, and service programs, assist in the preservation of this natural environment while encouraging desired economic growth and diversification.

The quality of Montana's human environment rests in large measure on the competence of its teachers, health care providers, public administrators, law enforcement personnel, business leaders, and officers of the judiciary. The Montana University System and post-secondary vocational education enhance this rich human resource through a myriad of educational opportunities for training, retraining, and upgrading.

In addition, the Board of Regents recognizes its responsibility to help improve the educational fortunes of Montana's large Indian population. Measures of this commitment include close cooperation with the tribally-controlled community colleges, Indian student fee waivers, establishment of Native American Study Centers on the campuses, extensive data collection and student tracking; and many other efforts to recruit and retain Indian students.

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Role and Scope Statement

The Montana University System is comprised of six colleges and universities bound together for the common purpose of serving the citizens of Montana. The System includes comprehensive research universities, specialty institutions, and smaller colleges closely attuned to regional needs. The State of Montana does not need nor can it support six identical comprehensive institutions of higher learning. Hence, the System is committed to provide reasonable access without unnecessary duplication of programs. Indeed, examination of the six institutions will reveal that they are diverse, shaped by different histories, and designed to meet different needs. This uniqueness is recognized and encouraged.

While the institutions are unique, they function as part of an integrated whole seeking to achieve maximum cooperation and interdependency as directed by the Board of Regents. This cooperation and interdependency is marked by:

- * Sharing of intellectual and material resources;
- * Collaboration among units in teaching, research, and public service;
- * Participation in a common academic core curriculum;
- * Guaranteed acceptance of credits from other institutions in the System;
- * Use of a common academic calendar;
- * Mutual efforts to assure orderly educational changes in response to shifts in society.

Further, all units of the Montana University System have the common and fundamental purpose of developing the intellectual potential and aesthetic awareness of all students, including the skills of inquiry, reasoning, and expression. Through a variety of professional programs, the System seeks to impart essential competencies that students will require for successful careers both now and in the future.

The Montana University System emphasizes undergraduate education through a broad range of Associate and Bachelor's degrees in the arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and professional disciplines. In addition, Master's, Specialist, and Doctoral degrees are offered in certain fields. The System is committed to lifelong learning opportunities and continuing education for both degree-seeking, and nondegree-seeking students.

The Montana University System recognizes the significant relationship of research (including artistic and creative works) to all instructional programs. Accordingly, each campus has a research mission consistent with its defined role and scope. The community of scholars operates in an atmosphere conducive to free inquiry, unfettered exploration of the unknown, and honest examination of hypotheses and accepted bodies of knowledge. Moreover, the System affirms those commonly accepted principles of academic freedom that are hallmarks of American public higher education.

Public service is a natural and desired outgrowth of the instructional and research activities of the System. Each institution offers public services consistent with its specified role and scope, and when adequate expertise exists to assure the quality of the program. In addition, all units in the System serve as cultural centers for their local communities and regions. Through a variety of shows, festivals, performances, and symposia, Montanans are exposed to artistic and cultural developments from around the world.

The entire higher education enterprise is coordinated by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education so that the needs of the state can be met efficiently and effectively with a minimum of cost.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Since receiving its charter in 1893, the University of Montana has evolved into a comprehensive, doctoral level university with a home campus at Missoula, a separate campus at Dillon, residence centers in numerous locations, and broad responsibilities statewide for on-site and technological delivery of academic programs and services. As a major public university, the University of Montana generates new knowledge through research and creative activities, transmits that knowledge through its instructional programs, and commits its academic resources to the public good through a variety of service activities, including important contributions to Montana's economic development. Excellence is expected in all these areas. Admission, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, is competitive, under policies endorsed by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

The University of Montana has been recognized as the center of liberal education in Montana and will be supported in its efforts to perpetuate a rich academic tradition which for decades has constituted a special and unusual asset to Montana and the Rocky Mountain West, and which has given the University its special character within the Montana University System. Consistent with both its heritage and its comprehensive mission, the University of Montana maintains extensive and diverse academic offerings, fostering dialogue between professional schools and academic disciplines, sciences and humanities, theorists and practitioners. Equal emphasis is placed on traditional learning -- through a rigorous general education requirement for all students and through undergraduate and graduate degree offerings in the humanities and the social, behavioral, physical and biological sciences -- and on specialized academic and professional career preparation in the Graduate School and in the schools of Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts, Forestry, Journalism, Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, and Law. Through a variety of faculty and student exchanges, research partnerships, diverse offerings in languages and cultures, Mansfield Center programs, and other special efforts, the University has established a unique role in international programming; this special commitment will continue.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The University of Montana is assigned exclusive responsibility within the Montana University System for instructional programs in Journalism, Law, Forestry, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Social Work, and currently offers the only graduate degree programs in Accounting, Business Administration and Administrative Sciences. Lead responsibility for graduate offerings in the humanities, the arts, and the social and behavioral sciences will remain a key institutional mission. Appropriate instructional and other academic entities should be combined into a Center for Western Studies. The University shares lead responsibility in the physical and biological sciences and the allied health professions.

The Montana Science and Technology Alliance has sited the Center of Excellence in Biotechnology at the University of Montana which it operates in partnership with Montana State University. The University of Montana also cooperates with Montana State University and Eastern Montana College in the Montana Entrepreneurship Center. In addition to the teaching and scholarly resources within each department and school, the University maintains a number of specialized laboratories, institutes and facilities: Yellow Bay Biological Station, Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center for Public Affairs, Wood Chemistry Laboratory, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Division of Educational Research and Services, Stella Duncan Memorial Institute, Montana Water Resources Research Center (in cooperation with Montana State University), Geology Field and Research Station at Dillon, Montana University Affiliated Program/Institute for Human Resources in Rural America including Rural Rehabilitation Training Center, Montana Defender Project, Center of Excellence in Biotechnology, Montana Entrepreneurship Center, Center for Population Research, Wilderness Institute, Telecommunications Center (including KUFM), Montana Repertory Theatre, Bureau of Press and Broadcasting Research, Clinical Psychology Center, Center for Continuing Education and Summer Programs, Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Montana Public Policy Research Institute, Institute for Tourism and Recreation, and Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

The University of Montana will maintain its commitment to program diversity through an essential balance between liberal learning and professional preparation. Nonacademic support services, essential to the quality of student life, will remain an institutional priority. The University will continue to respond to the needs of citizens for courses and programs through continuing education, telecommunications, and higher education centers in accord with regental policies; this responsibility is particularly strong in those areas in which

the University has been assigned exclusive professional or graduate programmatic responsibility within the system. The University will be encouraged to strengthen its international programming, especially toward the peoples of the Pacific Rim. Programs related to Montana's K-12 educational system, to economic development, and to environmental quality will receive sustained support.

DEGREE LEVELS

The University of Montana awards associate, bachelor's, master's, specialist and doctoral degrees, as well as certificates of completion, among its more than fifty undergraduate and more than forty graduate and first-professional disciplines. In addition, it maintains, through its Night School and through a variety of developmental programs, access for nondegree students.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

Consistent with its status as a major public university, the University of Montana recognizes multiple constituencies, local, national, and international. Its student population will remain cosmopolitan, with large numbers of graduate, international, off-campus, out-of-state, and nontraditional student enrollments. Local students will continue to benefit from the University's developmental and Night School programs, while telecommunications and other continuing education activities will continue to address the increasing demands of a statewide constituency.

WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Western Montana College of the University of Montana is a rural four-year college located in the southwestern Montana town of Dillon. Established in 1893 as the state's normal school, Western's primary focus has always been teacher education. Accordingly, excellence in undergraduate instruction, derived from close student-faculty relationship, is focal while public service and research activities contribute to the broader mission of the institution. July of 1988 ushered in a new era of evolving cooperative relationships between Western and the University of Montana, as the two institutions were merged administratively. Western functions as a separately accredited, independently budgeted branch campus of the University.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Western's leadership role in delivering instruction and research in teacher education encompasses on- and off-campus components, which impact both baccalaureate-level students and a much wider range of Montanans. Educating teachers for service to Montana's and the nation's smaller schools in rural areas is a particular mission of the campus. Research in rural education and outreach to the rural community are vital extensions of this role. A unique vision of the content and sequence of experiences for the pre-service teacher provides enriching off-campus contact for students throughout their academic lives. Extensive continuing education offerings are directed toward career development of in-service teachers.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

A number of associate degree programs in the arts, sciences, business, and education serve as vehicles for student diversification and transferability to other institutions of higher education. These programs also assist area students requiring retraining or more immediate entry into the work place. Particularly noteworthy are newly initiated programs in early childhood education and tourism/recreation. Institutional commitment, coupled with federal Title III funds, has resulted in implementation of developmental education offerings for those students entering college underprepared in various academic areas.

DEGREE LEVELS

Western offers degrees at the associate and bachelor's degree levels and participates in a master's degree in education offered by the University of Montana.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

Activities of Western Montana College of the University of Montana are derived from and dedicated to Montana's people. The college provides services to southwestern Montana as well as the entire state, especially the rural sector. Traditional and nontraditional students are integral to current activities and in the college's future. Service to educators in the state is primary, but small businesses and other commercial and governmental concerns have recently benefited from outreach efforts.

MSU

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Montana State University is a comprehensive state university and is the land-grant university for the state of Montana. With a student body of approximately 10,000 and a resident faculty of more than 500, it offers a broad range of baccalaureate and graduate degrees and also administers the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and the Montana Extension Service. Emphasis is placed upon undergraduate and graduate education, upon research of both a basic and an applied nature, and upon professional and public service to the state, region and nation. Undergraduate admission is open to all high school graduates who have met the core curriculum and aptitude standards mandated by the Montana Board of Regents. Montana State University as part of its land grant mission takes an active interest in enhancing the educational and professional opportunities for all protected classes and has a special dedication to developing progressive options for Montana's Native American population.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Consistent with its character as a land-grant university, Montana State University is the state's exclusive institution in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, and Home Economics. It is, furthermore, the exclusive institution in the area of Film, sharing responsibility in Television; and is the exclusive institution in Medicine, sharing responsibility for the biological sciences. It is the state's lead institution in the fields of Nursing, non-mining Engineering, Adult/Community and Higher Education, and Technology Education; and it is committed to maintaining its traditional excellence in the physical sciences and in Science-Math Education. Montana State University has been designated by the Montana Science and Technology Alliance as the site for the Center of Excellence in Synthesis and Characterization of Advanced Materials in cooperation with the University of Montana and Montana Tech. Montana State University is also a partner in the Center of Excellence in Biotechnology with the University of Montana and the Montana Entrepreneurship Center with Eastern Montana College and the University of Montana.

The recent creation of PBS-affiliate television station KUSM, the acquisition of a KU-band satellite uplink, the creation of a statewide telephone-modem access system to the Cat-Link computerized card catalog in Renne Library, and the campus's role in the Kellogg Foundation-funded, multi-state ICLIS (Intermountain Community Learning & Information Services) project - all of these serve to make MSU a focal point of electronic delivery of educational programs within the state.

Among many specialized programs, MSU houses the Area Health Education Center and the WAMI Medical Program; the Bureau of Educational Research and Community Education Center, and the Kellogg Center for Adult Learning Research; the Center for International Education, and various other globally oriented programs; the Engineering Experiment station, the Water Resource Center, the Science-Math Resource Center, the Center for the Synthesis and Characterization of Advanced Materials, the Institute for Process Analysis, and the Rural Technical Assistance Program; the Center for Native American Studies; the Local Government Center; the Museum of the Rockies; and a developing program in Molecular Biology.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Montana State University has developed, and will continue to develop a number of other professional and core academic programs. The professional degree programs in Architecture, Business, Education, Engineering and Nursing are fully accredited nationally; and it is a top priority of the university to maintain full national accreditation in each of these professions. In order to maintain the program in Accounting, and to comply with state law, it will be necessary to implement soon a five-year Accountancy program. Similarly, MSU has developed strong baccalaureate programs in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Human Development; these are important both as core disciplines in support of the above-mentioned professional programs and as degree programs in their own right.

DEGREE LEVELS

Montana State University offers 46 degrees at the baccalaureate level, 39 at the masters level, and 14 doctoral degrees.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

Montana State University serves both resident students and statewide constituencies, the latter especially through the Extension Service and a multifaceted program of Continuing Education. As a part of its land-grant mission, the university offers a variety of programs in professional and advanced technical education both on and off campus. In addition, the institution serves government agencies, businesses, industries and professions, schools, and many other groups as well, in various ways -- especially through a program of funded research and grants and contracts activity that in Fiscal Year 1989 totalled \$29,000,000.

MCMST

MONTANA COLLEGE OF MINERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MONTANA TECH)

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Montana Tech is a specialty institution with its primary mission devoted to graduate and undergraduate education and research in minerals, energy and the attendant areas of science, technology and economic development. Located within the historic mining community of Butte, the College also provides essential educational service to the local community through a comprehensive array of transfer programs as well as degree offerings in engineering, business development and in the natural and applied sciences. Admission to the College is determined by the universal admissions criteria established by the Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Montana Tech is the only institution of higher learning in North America to offer a fully comprehensive array of degree programs in the areas of minerals, energy, safety and environment. In addition to fundamental research in a wide variety of disciplines, the Montana Tech faculty, along with the professional staff of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (a Department of the College) conducts a rigorous and productive applied research program focused on problem solving in the minerals, energy and materials processing industries. The U.S. Bureau of Mines supports the Montana Mining and Minerals Research Institute on campus while the state has designated the College as Montana's Center for Minerals and Energy Research. As a consequence of a commitment to environmental concerns and a long history of service to the State of Montana and to the nation, the College has been designated as the state's Center of Excellence in Hazardous Substances and Materials Processing by the Montana Science and Technology Alliance. Efficient and timely application of technology to all aspects of the extractive industries is a theme which recurs throughout all academic and research programs at the College.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Consistent with the increasing sophistication and technical complexity of the mining and materials processing industries, the College's original mining curriculum has subsequently evolved into separate, specialized curricula designed to

prepare students for service in the complex categories of raw materials production, natural resource utilization and materials science. This process has led to the establishment of bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering science as well as degree programs in environmental, geological, geophysical, metallurgical, minerals processing, mining and petroleum engineering. In addition, bachelor's programs are now offered in geochemistry, metallurgy, mathematics, computer science, occupational safety and health and in the earth sciences, with emphasis on the traditional geosciences as well as hydrogeology and mineral economics. Added program development in key areas of the materials sciences, treatment of hazardous substances, applications of computer engineering and polymer and composite materials are currently under way. Development of 2-year technology-focused programs jointly with the Butte Vocational Technical Center will add critically needed trained technologists for the region's evolving industrial environment. The overall quality of the collegiate environment is continuing to develop through an enhanced co-curricular program and an increasingly well integrated array of responsive student services.

DEGREE LEVELS

Montana Tech offers degrees at the associate, bachelor's and master's degree levels. A joint master's degree in geochemistry has been established with the University of Montana and Montana State University while discussions of a joint master's offering in environmental engineering is under way with Montana State University. Together, the faculty of the College and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology constitute the largest concentration of trained professionals in the earth sciences in the Pacific Northwest.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

Montana Tech serves local, regional and international constituencies. The student population of the College is derived from throughout the state, the nation and around the world with a corresponding alumni base that has always been international in scope. Traditional industries in the area of mining, minerals and petroleum seek Montana Tech graduates for employment in positions on every continent while forward looking firms in all technology intensive areas increasingly look to Montana Tech for appropriately trained professionals in the information sciences as well as in the engineering and natural sciences. Local businesses have intensified their application of Tech's programs in business and information systems technology for in-house training, thereby reaffirming the College's commitment to serve the local community.

Non-traditional students constitute a steadily increasing component of the College's student population, leading to an enhanced program of evening classes and the recent establishment of a day-care center. Montana Tech has established a responsive approach to curriculum development, areas of applied research and community service that is closely linked to local, regional and national economic development. As changing economic circumstances give rise to new constituencies, the College will respond with revised and relevant instructional programs, timely research applications and new commitments to service at all levels.

EASTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Established March 12, 1927, as Eastern Montana State Normal School, with an initial authorization to prepare teachers for the elementary schools, Eastern Montana College has grown into a comprehensive state college. The college was established in response to the expressed needs of eastern Montana since all of the existing institutions of higher education were located in western Montana. Dramatic change has followed its founding and Eastern Montana College has grown, with the city of Billings and Yellowstone County, into the major higher education center serving eastern Montana. The College consists of three academic schools: the School of Arts and Sciences; the School of Business and Economics; and the School of Education. Eastern's institutional character continues to evolve and the College's geographic location presents many challenges and opportunities for innovation in the development and delivery of new academic programs and services designed to address the needs of its rural/urban geographic service area.

Excellence in instruction along with the promotion of the scholarly pursuits of both faculty and students serve as focal points for the institution. The College is committed to the concept and value of lifelong learning, and the continuing education and community services program provides students/participants with the opportunity to learn the latest developments in their fields and to explore newly emerging areas of interest and development. All faculty members are expected to engage in research or creative activity. In addition, the College participates in a number of ongoing state, regional, and national research projects. The majority of the research is applied and relates directly to the College's instructional programs and mission.

Public service is integral to the mission of the College and is conducted in a manner consistent with Eastern's role. The College's two primary public service entities are KEMC Public Radio and the Montana Center for Handicapped Children, a comprehensive education, rehabilitation, and medical/diagnostic center serving Montana's severely and multi-handicapped children and youth.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Eastern Montana College has placed primary emphasis on curricular development in the areas of undergraduate and graduate teacher education; a reasonably full complement of undergraduate degree programs in the liberal arts; and strong undergraduate programs in business and economics. Eastern Montana College has exclusive responsibility for the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in special education, special education supervision, and rehabilitation and rehabilitation counseling. The undergraduate degree in Human Services is also a unique program within the system. Eastern's strong commitment to the handicapped is evidenced by the broad base of academic programs and activities sponsored by the Institute for Habilitative Services and the Montana Center for Handicapped Children.

Through the Urban Institute, the Center for Business Enterprise, and the Montana Entrepreneurship Center, a state-wide Center for Excellence designated as a cooperative project along with the University of Montana and Montana State University by the Montana Science and Technology Alliance, Eastern endeavors to respond to the call for research, technical assistance, and support from the major industrial groups comprising most of the economic base for Billings, Yellowstone County and eastern Montana. Through existing programs in special education, rehabilitation and rehabilitation counseling, human services, gerontology, recreation therapy, and music and art therapy, Eastern has attempted to respond to dramatically increasing demands for specialized academic programs related to the needs of the medical and allied health professionals serving the Billings medical community.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Eastern Montana College will continue to offer a reasonably broad range of quality, undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences. The institution will continue to provide remedial/developmental offerings to those promising students who evidence a need for developmental work. Eastern will continue its strong commitment to the nonacademic support services so essential to quality campus life for students. The Center for Continuing Education and Community Service will continue to provide a wide variety of professional service courses, workshops, seminars, and conferences; undergraduate and graduate continuing education coursework, as necessary to serve the public schools of the region; and in-service training, courses, and workshops necessary to support the medical and allied health services industries of Billings, Yellowstone County, and Eastern Montana.

Eastern is also encouraged to develop new academic programs to meet the needs of metropolitan Billings including expanded

evening and weekend programming for nontraditional, working, and part-time students. Responsiveness to the educational needs of the Billings professional community continues to play an essential role in Eastern's development. Academic programs necessary to support the business sector, regional economic development, and the medical and health services industries will continue to be explored.

Pending Board of Regents' action on the nature and type of relationship to be developed between Eastern Montana College and the Billings Vocational-Technical Center, Eastern remains prepared to work on a comprehensive curricular proposal designed to meet the post-secondary education needs of the community and region. When appropriate, Eastern will work to establish and maintain inter-institutional relationships with other units of the Montana University System to promote public service and research efforts to help meet the societal, governmental, industrial, and continuing education needs of its urban area. Eastern continues to be very interested in and supportive of the development of an external degree program designed to enhance student access to higher education in Montana.

DEGREE LEVELS

Eastern Montana College offers special and pre-professional programs and awards degrees at the associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree levels. Eastern also offers several post masters (nondegree) supervisor endorsement programs in Elementary Curriculum, Reading K-12, and Special Education K-12. In 1988, the Board of Regents authorized the offering of the Billings MBA program by the University of Montana.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED BY EMC

Eastern Montana College serves local, state, and regional constituencies. Undergraduate and graduate programs serving a statewide and regional constituency include special education, rehabilitation and rehabilitation counseling, human services, and teacher education. Northern Wyoming is a major provider of students and consumer of Eastern graduates in teacher education, rehabilitation, special education, and human services. The College also serves government agencies, educational institutions, industries, businesses and professions through programs of continuing education and community services, research, and technical assistance, educational computing, economic development, and entrepreneurship.

NMC

NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Northern Montana College, located in Havre, serves residents living in a 32,000 square mile area of north central Montana. The institution, established by the Thirteenth Legislative Session, began instruction on September 24, 1929.

Northern Montana College provides quality undergraduate education leading to associate and baccalaureate degrees. Graduate education is offered at the master's level in primary and secondary education, and in guidance and counseling.

Public service to Montana citizens is a priority activity at Northern Montana College as it addresses the needs of the population through linkages with business, military, and industrial organizations. Northern Montana College provides economic development initiatives to Montana including applied research and technology transfer.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The unique programmatic emphasis at Northern Montana College is middle technology. Middle technology is the application of high technology, product innovation, and engineering to the productivity and economic development of society, expediting the transfer of technology to business, military, environmental, and industrial enterprises through computerization and automation. Mathematics, sciences, and communication skills are the foundation of middle technology, which also requires an understanding of the liberal arts and sciences, and mastery of the artisan's craft.

Programs in middle technology at Northern Montana College encompass a wide realm. Some programs emphasize traditional vocational education by concentrating on skills and craftsmanship. These programs are buttressed by basic communication and computational skills. Presently Northern Montana College maintains its statewide mission in vocational teacher preparation through the Center for Vocational Education Research, Curriculum and Personnel Development. Other middle technology programs feature the industrial technology universe. These programs, offered primarily at the associate degree level, insure that Montanans become proficient in the

operations, management, and servicing of technologically complex systems found in the growth sector of Montana's economy. Finally, several middle technology baccalaureate programs draw heavily upon higher level mathematics and sciences to educate technologists for the post-industrial economy.

The baccalaureate nursing program at Northern Montana College articulates nursing competencies so that diploma, certificate, or associate degree graduates can attain high quality baccalaureate education without course repetition. Both the associate and baccalaureate nursing programs continue to develop curriculum and clinical experiences to reflect current health care technology with consideration to the special needs of rural regions in Montana. Both programs pursue accreditation by the National League of Nursing.

The multi-entry/multi-exit mode of access to higher education recognizes that many Montana citizens, for various reasons, interrupt their educational careers. In many cases these students should receive the appropriate credential to reflect their achievement and to expedite their re-entry into post-secondary education. Northern Montana College designs its academic programs so that no citizen will be required to repeat courses to certify knowledge, understanding, or skill already mastered within another educational context.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Northern Montana College emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to liberal studies providing students with the traditional breadth of disciplines within the arts and sciences as well as selected concentrations within those disciplines. The Northern Montana College Program in business emphasizes small business development employing a quantitative focus and is characterized by the multi-entry/multi-exit pattern of enrollment. Cooperative educational experiences continue to be strong components of business and other academic programs. Teacher education programs at Northern Montana College focus on K-12 educational needs within the north central region of the state, especially in the area along the northern border known as the Hi-Line.

Northern Montana College shares many characteristics with other Montana University System institutions providing basic collegiate instruction required for career preparation and the development of human potential--a requisite role of any institution of higher education. Northern Montana College, a teaching and learning institution, is committed to meeting the continuing education and manpower needs of Montana's changing economy. Scholarly activity, applied research, and public service are undertaken at Northern Montana College to lend vitality to teaching, the growth of a community of scholars, and the economic and social development of the state; Northern

Montana College considers its primary role to be a human potential development center for Montana citizens.

To accomplish these various goals, Northern Montana College has established state-of-the-art computer and automation laboratories, automotive and diesel technology work facilities, a designated governmental documents depository is located in the Vande Bogart Library which is accessible to the citizens of the region, and national public radio programming is broadcast from the campus radio station under the call letters KNMC. Partnerships and agreements have been developed with a variety of health care agencies to provide clinical experience for associate and baccalaureate nursing students. Education majors, in addition to the student teaching experience, participate in a variety of field experiences in the public schools designed to enhance their classroom learning.

DEGREE LEVELS

Northern Montana College offers degrees at the associate, bachelor's, and master's levels appropriate to its mission.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

Northern Montana College serves local, state, and international constituencies. These constituencies include students with traditional educational goals, students seeking specific knowledge or skills for personal or employment purposes, and graduate students seeking the master's degree. In addition, Northern Montana College provides service to local and state businesses, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and individuals. The residents of the Hi-Line have come to expect an array of cultural and entertainment events hosted or produced by Northern Montana College.

ROLE AND SCOPE GLOSSARY

PROGRAM:

A Program is defined as any coherent sequence of courses leading to an option, track or emphasis within a degree; an Associate Degree; Minor or Major (Bachelor's Degree); Master's; Specialist; and/or Doctoral Degree.

EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY:

Exclusive responsibility means that an institution has sole responsibility for development and maintenance of a program of study. An exclusive program is the only one in the State authorized to grant a degree in the particular area of study. The assignment of exclusive responsibility to an institution for a particular field of study does not foreclose other institutions from having limited instruction in that field of study. However, such limited instruction must be confined to a few courses offered to meet identified student needs.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

When an institution is assigned lead responsibility for a program of study, the program is to be considered one of special emphasis within the institution. Further, a lead program should assume statewide leadership in course delivery, research, and public service. Other institutions may offer courses and, in some cases, degrees in a field of study where the lead designation has been assigned elsewhere. However, programs without lead status are more confined in scope such that the array of courses, levels of degree (associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral), research emphasis, statewide role, and public service efforts are to be less than that found at the lead institution. Duplication of lead programs and lead status should rarely occur.

CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Continuing development of a program means that an institution is permitted to continue to offer courses and degrees in a particular program of study. The program has neither an exclusive nor lead designation and exists to meet the needs of students attending the institution. It is important to add, however, that a program slated for continuing development, if it is to be viable, must be permitted to change and develop as resources become available.

Billings

BILLINGS VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTER

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

The Billings Vocational-Technical Center, a postsecondary education institution located in one of Montana's two major metropolitan areas, is one of five campuses of the Montana System for Postsecondary Vocational-Technical Education. The primary role of the Center is to provide individuals preparing to enter, advance, or change their careers with vocational and technical competencies and life skills. Students at the Center acquire technological competencies or upgrading competencies through curriculum that is validated by business and industry on a regular basis. Instruction and community service are designed to meet the present and emerging occupational needs of the local community, state, region, and nation.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The Billings Vocational-Technical Center provides occupationally specific and related instruction to meet a diversity of employment needs. The curriculum develops graduates with technological competencies and related academic competencies in the areas of communications, computation, and human relations. When appropriate, safety and industry environmental awareness courses are provided. Graduates become employees with added value to employers through acquisition of occupational competencies and the ability to learn, communicate, work independently or as a team member, and to accept change within the workplace.

Twenty certificates are awarded from the Center's nine instructional programs. Within the state system the vocational-technical programs that are unique to the Billings Center are:

- o Computer Aided Drafting
- o Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning
Technology
- o Major Appliance Repair

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

The Billings Vocational-Technical Center will continue to offer occupationally specific and related instruction opportunities on campus as well as through distance-learning methods to prepare or retrain individuals to meet the demands of present and future technology.

The Center will participate in the process of developing collaborative relationships with other postsecondary institutions, public and private, to provide beneficial and accessible educational opportunities and to ensure the most effective and responsible use of resources.

DEGREE LEVELS

The Billings Vocational-Technical Center offers certificates of completion and/or Associate of Applied Sciences degrees, as appropriate, to students meeting the exit criteria of occupational training programs not exceeding two academic years.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

The Billings Vocational-Technical Center gives particular emphasis in occupational training to individuals, business, labor, government, and human resource agencies. The Center provides open admission for residents of Montana.

Butte

BUTTE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTER

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

The Butte Vocational-Technical Center is a postsecondary non-residential educational institution providing occupational training that is responsive to the present and future needs of the residents of Silver Bow County, its contiguous area, and the state of Montana. The Center also offers adult and continuing education courses to provide additional service to the community.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The Butte Vocational-Technical Center provides both core related education and occupationally-specific instruction to meet a variety of employment needs within its service area. In addition to the core curriculum in applied mathematics, communications, human relations, cooperative work experience, and microcomputer literacy, the Center offers eleven principal programs of study with eleven options within those programs. The principal programs of study are in the areas of business and office occupations, health occupations, technical occupations, and trades and industrial occupations. The Civil Engineering Technology program is unique to the Butte Center within the system of five centers in the state.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

The Butte Vocational-Technical Center will continue to offer occupationally-specific and related instruction to prepare students for technological employment. The Center will continue to meet immediate and short-term training needs of industry and business within its major service area as well as to offer courses of instruction that meet continuing and stable market demands for technologically skilled workers. The Center will continue to participate in the process of developing collaborative relationships with other Centers and postsecondary institutions to provide better educational opportunities for Montana citizens and to ensure the most effective and responsible use of resources.

DEGREE LEVELS

The Butte Vocational-Technical Center offers certificates of completion and/or Associate of Applied Science degrees, as

appropriate, leading to employment in a business or job recognized by industry.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

The Butte Vocational-Technical Center provides open admission for residents of Montana. Non-residents of Montana may be admitted provided they do not displace Montana residents.

Great
Falls

GREAT FALLS VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTER

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

The Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center is a postsecondary education institution providing employment training and upgrading in vocational and technical fields to one of Montana's two major metropolitan areas. Instruction and community service are designed to meet present and emerging local, state, regional and national occupational needs.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center provides occupationally specific and related instruction to meet a diversity of employment needs. The related education core curriculum includes courses in communication, computation and human relations and, when appropriate, safety, industrial safety and environmental awareness. Academic skill building laboratories to support technical training programs offer individualized learning opportunities in reading, language, mathematics and study skills. Twenty-two programs are offered in three occupational specialty areas of health, business, and trades and industry. Within the State's five-center system, the vocational-technical offerings that are unique to the Great Falls Center are:

- o Child Care Specialist
- o Dental Assistant
- o Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic
- o Occupational Therapy Assistant
- o Respiratory Therapist
- o Dental Receptionist
- o Medical Office Assistant
- o Jewelry, Watch, and Microprecision Repair.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center will continue to offer occupationally specific and related instruction opportunities on campus as well as through distance-learning methods to prepare or retrain individuals to meet the demands of present and future technology. The Center will participate in the process of developing collaborative relationships with other postsecondary institutions, public and private, to provide beneficial and accessible educational opportunities and to ensure the most effective and responsible use of resources.

DEGREE LEVELS

The Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center awards certificates of completion and Associate of Applied Science degrees, as appropriate, to students who successfully meet exit criteria of the occupational training program in which they are enrolled.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

The Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center gives particular emphasis to technical and occupational training for individuals, business, labor, military, government, and human resource agencies. The Center provides open admission for residents of Montana and members of the United States Armed Forces who are assigned in Montana, their spouses, and dependent children.

Helena

HELENA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTER

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

The Helena Vocational-Technical Center is a postsecondary technical institute offering the highest quality programs possible within the limits of space, personnel, and finances. Since its conception in 1939, the Center has grown from a two program department to over sixteen programs. During this past year it served over 1,300 students.

All programs are occupationally specific in nature of no more than two years in length. The curriculum is industry validated and taught in a work-like environment.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

High quality instruction is offered in office education, trades and industry, technical, and health occupations. The mission of the programs is to provide pre-employment vocational and technical education in specified skills, retrain for employment, upgrade the employed, and community service. Each of the program areas offers a general education core to include human relations, communications, job preparation, and related mathematics. All these are relevant and comprehensive programs meeting the needs of industry for Montana and the greater region. The curricula are designed to meet the personal needs of each student to gain the knowledge and skills needed to be effective, useful members of a changing society.

Programs unique to the Helena Center are:

- o Carpentry
- o Truck-Diesel Mechanics
- o Airframe and Powerplant Technology

The two divisions offering a majority of the programs are office and trade and industrial education.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

The Helena Vocational-Technical Center will continue to offer general education and related instruction to prepare students for technological employment. The Helena Vocational-Technical Center will continue to meet immediate and short-term training needs of industry and business within its major service area as well as to offer courses of instruction

that meet continuing and stable market demands for technologically skilled workers. The programs range from one to two years in length. The school is fully accredited by Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

DEGREE LEVELS

The Helena Vocational-Technical Center offers certificates of completion and/or Associate of Applied Science degrees, as appropriate, leading to employment in a business or job recognized by industry.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

The Helena Vocational-Technical Center provides open admission for residents of Montana who need to acquire competencies to enter the work force, upgrade existing skills, or prepare for a career change. Located in the capital city, the Helena Vocational-Technical Center places emphasis on working with state, federal, and military agencies for upgrading and re-training of their employees. As a result, the Center enrolls a mature student population and an increased number of part-time people.

Missoula

MISSOULA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTER

Role and Scope Statement

NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION

Missoula Vocational-Technical Center started small with the conviction that Montana people deserved a chance at the specialized jobs opening up as the region expanded. Deserving a chance meant acquiring proper training, preferably in the Missoula community. This training had roots in existing Missoula County High School District programs. In 1960 the District established a practical nursing training program, one of the first postsecondary, full-time occupational programs offered through a high school in Montana. Between 1960 and 1966 federal funding became available for additional full-time programs. Although these and the Practical Nursing program were operated by the District, they had little formal identity; they did not constitute a school. In 1966 Missoula County High School trustees, administrators, teachers, students, and a dedicated core of interested business people collected facts and developed them into the proposal, presenting to the State Superintendent the need for a vocational-technical school in Missoula. The State Superintendent accepted the Missoula County High School District proposal, and on October 18, 1966 authorized a Missoula area vocational-technical school. In 1967 the Missoula County High School District Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Center. Missoula Vocational-Technical Center is now a two-year postsecondary, nonresidential educational institution providing opportunities in vocational and technical education.

Vocational-technical education is a major factor in the growth, welfare, and economy of the local, state, regional, and national community. It is unique in that its frame of reference must be in occupational terms and dimensions. The needs of the individual, industry, and the community are considered when providing vocational-technical education opportunities and services. The Center offers instruction and services to meet present and emerging local, state, regional, and national occupational needs expressed by individuals, business, industry, and the community.

Students, instructors, administrators, and staff at the Center recognize the dignity and worth of the individual and believe that postsecondary education should be available to all who can benefit from it; that the Center should provide for students a period of intensive learning in a stimulating environment, and that vocational-technical education should be a rewarding experience that fosters the growth and well-being of all members of the community it serves.

Missoula Vocational Technical Center impacts both the social and economic structure of Missoula and the state. The social impact relates to the provision of vocational-technical education opportunities to a population that has need for the education. The satisfaction of this need reduces the potential of having to provide other societal services and enhances the participants' abilities to be contributors to the Missoula and state social and economic efforts. Further economic benefit is realized when employers receive needed employees from Center training programs. The opportunity to fill jobs with productive employees enhances an existing employer's business and also attracts potential employers.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The Missoula Vocational-Technical Center provides related and occupationally specific instruction to meet a diversity of employment needs. Related instruction includes courses in communication, computation, human relations, and science.

Occupationally-specific instruction is offered in the program areas of agriculture, business, computer and information sciences, engineeringrelated technologies, health, home economics, law, protective services and public affairs, and trade and industrial as identified by the Classification of Instructional Programs. Offerings that are unique to Missoula Vocational-Technical Center are:

- o Commercial Truck Operation
- o Fashion Merchandising
- o Retail Merchandising
- o Legal Assisting
- o Microcomputing Systems and Applications
- o Medical Reception
- o Heavy Equipment Mechanics
- o Heavy Equipment Operation
- o Surgical Technology

Emphasis will be given to providing a variety of vocational-technical education opportunities rather than depth in any one program area. A variety of opportunities will better serve the demographic nature of Missoula, the surrounding area, and the state.

AREAS OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Missoula Vocational-Technical Center will continue to offer related and occupationally-specific instruction to prepare students for employment. It will continue to offer short-term programs and courses to satisfy immediate training needs of business and industry, as well as programs and courses which meet continuing and expanding employment demands. Missoula Vocational-Technical Center will continue to participate in the

process of developing relationships with other institutions to provide better educational opportunities and ensure the most effective and responsible use of resources.

DEGREE LEVELS

Missoula Vocational-Technical Center awards certificates of completion and, with the approval of the Board of Regents of Higher Education, will award the Associate of Applied Science degree for appropriate programs.

CONSTITUENCIES SERVED

Missoula Vocational-Technical Center provides open admission for those desiring to participate in vocational-technical education programs designed to prepare individuals to enter into employment, advance within their present employment, or prepare for a career change. In many cases, the population served is place bound with no opportunity to leave Missoula for educational endeavors. In addition, the Center serves the businesses and industries of Missoula County, its contiguous area, the state of Montana, and the northwest region of the United States.

